not ſufficient mind to be amuſed by innocent pleaſure; like the tradeſman who retires from the hurry of buſineſs, nature preſents to them only a univerſal blank; and the reſtleſs thoughts prey on the damped ſpirits*. Their reformation, as well as his retirement, actually makes them wretched becauſe it deprives them of all employment, by quenching the hopes and fears that ſet in motion their ſluggiſh minds.

If ſuch is the force of habit; if ſuch is the bondage of folly, how carefully ought we to guard the mind from ſtoring up vicious aſſociations; and equally careful ſhould we be to cultivate the underſtanding, to ſave the poor wight from the weak dependent ſtate of even harmleſs ignorance. For it is the right uſe of reaſon alone which makes us independent of every thing—excepting the unclouded Reaſon —'Whoſe ſervice is perfect freedom.'

* I have frequently ſeen this exemplified in women, whoſe beauty could no longer be repaired. They have retired from the noiſy ſcenes of diſſipation; but, unleſs they became methodiſts, the ſolitude of the ſelect ſociety of their family connexions or acquaintance, has preſented only a fearful void; conſequently, nervous complaints, and all the vapouriſh train of idleneſs, rendered them quite as uſeleſs, and far more unhappy, than when they joined the giddy throng.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

MODESTY.—COMPREHENSIVELY CONSIDERED, AND NOT AS A SEXUAL VIRTUE.

Modesty! Sacred offspring of ſenſibility and reaſon!—true delicacy of mind!—may I unblamed preſume to inveſtigate thy nature, and trace to its covert the mild charm, that mellowing each harſh feature of a character, renders what would otherwiſe only inſpire cold admiration—lovely!—Thou that ſmootheſt the wrinkles of wiſdom, and ſofteneſt the tone of the ſublimeſt virtues till they all melt into humanity;—thou that ſpreadeſt the ethereal cloud that ſurrounding love heightens every beauty, it half ſhades, breathing thoſe coy ſweets that ſteal into the heart, and charm the ſenſes—modulate for me the language of perſuaſive reaſon, till I rouſe my ſex from the flowery bed, on which they ſupinely ſleep life away!

In ſpeaking of the aſſociation of our ideas, I have noticed two diſtinct modes; and in